

Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2008
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Meeting opened at 12:35 p.m.

Board members present: Chairman George McHale, Cushing Samp, Richard Arnold and Larry Hall. Peter Danton absent.

Staff members present: Exec. Director Robert Welch, Auditor Scott Woods and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

Legal counsel: Lara Nomani, Ass't A.G.

- **Minutes from May 28, 2008 meeting:**

Motion to accept: Cushing Samp moved to accept the minutes from the May 28th meeting

Seconded: Richard Arnold

Vote: 4-0

- **Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch**

- The City of Bangor approved the relicensure of Bangor Historic Track on 5/28.
- The Scientific Games bill was paid on the contract
- The Board will be receiving .42 cents a mile effective 7/1/2008
- The Centerbridge/Fortress buyout of Penn National has fallen through. We were notified on 7/3/0/08. Mr. Eden, a former CEO of Fortress, will be employed by Penn National. Our office has already received and processed his application, complete with interview held.
- Grand Opening of Hollywood Slots Hotel & Raceway was held Tuesday, July 1st. Our unit has been besieged with new applications for the facility.
- Mr. Welch mailed the letters asking for a donation for the changeover costs of Scientific Games for this opening to the entities as requested. No responses as of yet.
- The temporary facility was struck by a direct lightning strike on Friday, June 27th. As a result, it played havoc with the variance amounts. We are using Scientific Games' official numbers, but the strike did affect several machines.
- The 22 hour changeover went well. Security was never compromised; the facility opened on time and only had 10-12 machines that were shutdown as of the opening date
- The budget for the unit was discussed this morning with Commissioner Jordan.
- The Gambling Addiction Contract was renewed. Nobody has taken advantage of this program yet. Mr. Welch mailed the brochure to Probation and Sheriffs' offices. Now he will be mailing them to the Victim Advocate offices.
- Gaming Lab Inc LLC contract was renewed for one year.

- **Financial Update – Scott Woods**

Scott reported that five million was played on opening day – which meant a net of \$422,000.

This past weekend, 3 million was the high point played instead of the 2 million as has been the norm.

Over the Fourth of July weekend – over 3 million played on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The variances have changed considerably. He is still working out the variances between Scientific Games, Hollywood Slots and us. A few machines are still offline.

- **State Police Activity Update – Sgt. Bill Gomane**

Sgt. Gomane reported that on opening day, we had Lt. Bowler and three troopers present. 85 Board applications have been received since the May meeting and processed. He expressed his happiness with the security set up at the new facility and the efficiency of the staff there.

- **Unfinished Business - none**

- **New Business**

Ms. Nomani from the A.G.'s office will be reviewing all of the current application forms in order to reduce redundancy and reword the language in places where it needs to be more simplified.

Dick Arnold proposed to the Board that they join him with joining the North American Gaming Association (NAGRA). This is a nonprofit association of gaming regulators. Sgt. Gomane advised that State Police already belong and that the Board can be added in under their membership. Mr. Welch will check into this and report back at the next meeting.

Motion: by Dick Arnold to have all Board members join NAGRA postponed until the next meeting.

- **Public Comments**

Jon Johnson, general manager of Hollywood Slots addressed the Board and thanked everyone for helping get them open when they wanted to be. The move went well, some machines are not working now – they need new chips and that's being addressed. 9,000 players on opening day there. The Hotel will be opening one floor at a time, sometime this month. Then every other week, another floor will open.

Next meeting date – August 20, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: Cushing Samp

2nd: by Larry Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chamberlain
Secretary